

January 25, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am responding to your inquiry into the Canadian's interactions with the west coast American albacore fishing industry. My name is Jeff Vouaux, a 2nd generation albacore fisherman, boat owner, and operator. Albacore fishing on the west coast of the United States is my primary source of income. This fishing is strictly pole & line and trolling. If you do find fish and/or they are not biting, you must search for fish that will bite. This scenario happens daily. Now with the American fleet working an area, the Canadian fleet will often enter the same area, which then becomes overcrowded and aggressive, with all the boats competing for a limited supply of fish. I find it difficult to work around the Canadian vessels, let alone a fleet of 100 plus Canadian vessels inside the U.S. EEZ. The bottom line is overcrowding and overfishing, and no one wants that. I am adamantly against the Canadian/U.S. Albacore Treaty and feel that all Canadians should not be permitted to fish inside the U.S. EEZ, whether there is aggressive behavior on the part of the Canadians or not.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Vouaux
Owner/Captain
F/U Charlotte V.